

to small mammals. The active ingredient specified in Claim 1 is an analogue of the known sedative agent detomidine, which differs from that compound by having a methyl substituent on the carbon atom linking the imidazole and benzene rings. Detomidine is known to be an effective sedative and analgesic agent for large mammals such as horses and cattle. Detomidine is, however, ineffective in small mammals. The present invention is based on the surprising discovery that the compound of formula (I) is an effective sedative and analgesic agent in small mammals. Since it is a methyl-substituted derivative of a compound known to be ineffective for this purpose, this is a surprising and unobvious discovery. The invention as defined in Claim 1 is therefore clearly distinguished from, and unobvious over, the admitted facts concerning the prior art mentioned on page 1 of the application.

In the second rejection under 35 USC 103, the Examiner relies on a Chemical Abstracts reference which shows that certain phenyl alkyl imidazole derivatives are known to possess anti-hypertensive activity and also to be anti-thrombotics, bactericides and fungicides. There is, however, no suggestion in this reference that the substituted imidazole compounds can be used to bring about sedation or analgesia in a small mammal. The utilities mentioned in the reference are not analogous to the utilities with which the present invention is concerned. It was not therefore obvious that one particular compound within the scope of formula (I) of

the reference would be obvious for the purpose claimed in the present application and, hence, not obvious to use the compound for that purpose. This ground of rejection, therefore, is believed to be improper.

In these circumstances, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103 are believed to be in order.

The error in the formula on page 1 noted by the Examiner has been corrected as already noted.

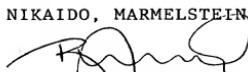
Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended are believed to be in order and are earnestly requested.

Should minor issues remain which can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number in order to resolve said issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2395, along with any other required fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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